

## Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 185861

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 SSM-05

PA-02 SS-15 NSC-05 DODE-00 NSCE-00 /074 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

----- 036817

O 272150Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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PAGE 02 STATE 185861

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
USMISSION SINAI  
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 185861

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 27

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR JULY 27,  
1976:

SPOKESMAN: WE SHOULD HAVE READY IN THE OFFICE AROUND 2:30  
THIS AFTERNOON THE STATEMENT BY ARTHUR DAY, DEPUTY  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN  
AFFAIRS, BEFORE THE SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGA-  
TIONS OF THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE.  
MR. DAY WILL BE DISCUSSING THE MURDERS OF AMBASSADOR MELOY  
AND MR. WARING.

Q. WHEN?

A. HE IS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR AT 2:30.

Q. ON THAT LAST POINT, WILL THE DAY PRESENTATION HAVE ANY  
FUNDAMENTALLY NEW INFORMATION ON THE MURDERS; DO YOU KNOW?

A. I THINK IT IS THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE DISCUSSED IN  
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 185861

DETAIL THE INFORMATION WE HAVE THAT IS AVAILABLE, AND, AS

I SAY, WE WILL HAVE THE TEXT AROUND --

Q. WHEN?

A. -- 2:30, I THINK; AND I BELIEVE THE SESSION BEGINS AT  
LEAST IN OPEN SESSION.

Q. THE SECRETARY WENT UP TO THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS COMMITTEE WITH A MAP SHORTLY AFTER THE HEARINGS  
AND HE WENT OVER IN DETAIL WHAT HAPPENED AT THAT TIME.  
IS THERE MORE INFORMATION KNOWN NOW AS TO THE IDENTITY OF

THE KILLERS?

A. I DO NOT WANT TO ANTICIPATE MR. DAY'S TESTIMONY.

Q. NOW THAT THERE HAS BEEN A SUCCESSFUL EVACUATION FROM BEIRUT, SO FAR AS YOU CAN ANTICIPATE THINGS WILL THERE BE ANY FURTHER NEED FOR EXCHANGES WITH THE PLO ON ANY SUBJECT?

A. NO. AS I SAID, OUR CONTACTS WITH THE PLO WERE STRICTLY IN THE CONTEXT FOR ARRANGING THE SAFE DEPARTURE OF AMERICAN CITIZENS.

Q. O.K., BUT OF COURSE THERE ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS REMAINING IN BEIRUT AND SECURITY IS STILL SOMETHING TO BE CONSIDERED. BUT EVEN SO, UNLESS THERE'S ANOTHER EVACUATION -- AND I GUESS ONE ISN'T PLANNED -- THERE IS NO FURTHER NEED TO DEAL WITH THE PLO?

A. BUT WE HAVE INDICATED IN THE PAST, THAT LARGE PARTS OF WEST BEIRUT ARE UNDER PALESTINIAN GROUPS. AT LEAST THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY, INCLUDING THE AREA IN WHICH OUR EMBASSY IS LOCATED.

Q. YES, THAT'S WHAT I MEANT. WELL, IN LIGHT OF THAT, WILL THERE BE A NEED TO HAVE SECURITY TALKS WITH THE PLO?

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 185861

A. ON THE GROUND I WOULD ASSUME OUR EMBASSY SECURITY OFFICER WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE CONTACTS - AS HE HAS HAD IN THE PAST ---BECAUSE THEY ARE, IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING, RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY IN WEST BEIRUT WHERE OUR EMBASSY IS LOCATED.

Q. SO --?

A. THEY ARE THE SECURITY FORCES.

Q. OK. I HOPE THIS ISN'T TOO BIG A JUMP, BUT THAT WOULD MEAN OUR CONTINUED PRESENCE AS AN EMBASSY IN LEBANON IS DEPENDENT ON THE GOODWILL AND THE GUARANTEES OF THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION.

IS IT CORRECT TO SAY THE UNITED STATES FUNCTIONS IN LEBANON BY THE GRACE OF THE PLO FROM THIS POINT ON?

A. THIS IS NOT A NEW DEVELOPMENT.

Q. I DON'T SAY IT'S NEW.

A. YES. YOU SAID "FROM THIS POINT ON."

Q. WELL, I SAY -- I MEAN -- WELL, "FROM THIS POINT ON" I MEAN THE EVACUATION HAVING BEEN COMPLETE -- AND UNLESS THE SITUATION CHANGES. THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND HAS CHANGED SEVERAL TIMES, BUT SO FAR AS WE'VE BEEN TALKING IT'S BEEN STABLE FOR SOME WEEKS NOW.

A. WELL --

Q. SO -- FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE IS WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY -- OUR PRESENCE IN BEIRUT IS -- WHAT -- BY THE GRACE AND GOODWILL OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION?

A. I DO NOT KNOW. I DO NOT HAVE THAT KIND OF DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE SECURITY SITUATION, BUT I DO KNOW THAT FOR SOME TIME PALESTINIAN GROUPS HAVE EXERCISED THE SECURITY FUNCTION IN THAT SECTION OF BEIRUT.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 185861

Q. YES.

Q. CAN I CLARIFY A POINT? YOU SAID YOU ASSUME THAT THESE EMBASSY SECURITY OFFICERS WILL HAVE CONTACTS AS THEY HAVE IN THE PAST. I ASSUME THAT THAT'S A CONTINUING PROCESS --

A. RIGHT.

Q. -- THAT THIS DOES NOT RELATE TO THE EVACUATION.

A. THAT IS CORRECT.

Q. HOW LONG HAS THAT BEEN GOING ON?

A. I WOULD HAVE TO THINK BACK WHEN THAT SITUATION SORTED ITSELF OUT IN THE CITY OF BEIRUT. IT HAS BEEN FOR SOME TIME.

Q. IS THE SECURITY OFFICER A U.S. NATIONAL --

A. YES.

Q. -- A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER?

A. YES.

Q. WHO IS THE -- I'M SORRY; THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN ON THE WIRE FROM THERE; BUT WHO IS THE RANKING MAN, NOW THAT SEELYE IS HOME?

A. RAY HUNT.

Q. RAYMOND, OR IS IT RAY?

A. RAY, I THINK IT IS.

Q. RAY HUNT?

A. YES. HE IS THE CHARGE.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 185861

Q. TO GO BACK FOR A MOMENT TO THE BEIRUT ISSUE: IN THESE SECURITY CONTACTS, THEY ARE MADE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PLO, IS THAT CORRECT?

A. YES.

Q. DOES THAT, THEREFORE, SIGNIFY THAT, AS FAR AS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED, IT IS THE PLO THAT REPRESENTS THE PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON?

A. NO, I DO NOT KNOW THAT IT IS JUST THE PLO. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT GROUPS, AS YOU KNOW, IN BEIRUT. BUT WE CERTAINLY HAVE HAD CONTACTS WITH PALESTINIAN GROUPS, INCLUDING THE PLO, AS FAR AS SECURITY IS CONCERNED.

Q. WELL, WHEN YOU SAY YOU HAVE HAD CONTACT WITH A NUMBER OF GROUPS, I WONDER IF YOU COULD BE MORE SPECIFIC.

A. LET ME CHECK IN THE DEPARTMENT AND SEE IF WE CAN IDENTIFY IF THERE ARE ANY OTHER GROUPS WHICH ARE NOT THOUGHT TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE PLO. AS FAR AS THE QUESTION OF THE EVACUATION TODAY, I THINK THAT IT WAS WITH THE PLO, BUT I AM NOT SURE THAT FOR THE LAND CONVOY THERE WERE NOT OTHER GROUPS.

Q. IF I COULD JUST FOLLOW UP, I KNOW HENRY RAISED THIS QUESTION JUST A COUPLE OF MINUTES AGO, AND I AM STILL NOT QUITE CLEAR ON THE ANSWER. MY IMPRESSION WAS UNTIL FAIRLY RECENTLY THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD DENIED ANY KIND OF DIRECT CONTACT WITH ANY PALESTINIAN GROUP, AND YET YOU TELL US TODAY THAT THESE CONTACTS HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR SOME TIME.

A. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE DENIED TECHNICAL CONTACTS WITH THE GROUPS WHO WERE CONCERNED WITH SECURITY.

Q. I THINK YOU HAVE DENIED ANY KIND OF DIRECT CONTACT UNTIL VERY VERY RECENTLY. THEREFORE, MY QUESTION IS, TO BE A LITTLE MORE EXPLICIT THAN HENRY'S QUESTION: JUS

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>



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